

War, Trial Protesters Leave 420,000 Names

By Martin Weil

Washington Post Staff Writer

About 400 protesters marched to the west gate of the White House yesterday to deposit 37 cartons of postcards, letters and petitions they said bore 420,000 signatures calling for a fast end to the Vietnam war.

They marched single file in a thin, cold drizzle after holding a 40-minute rally in snow-covered Lafayette Park to protest the Chicago Conspiracy trial and call for an immediate withdrawal from Vietnam.

The rally was sponsored by the Vietnam Moratorium Com-

mittee, which said it gathered most of the signatures, along with a west coast group called People for Peace.

Rally speakers included furcapped former Sen. Ernest Gruening (A-Alaska), David Hawk, a moratorium coordinator, and Dick Davis, brother of Rennie Davis, a conspiracy trial defendant.

At the close this weekend of their trial on charges of conspiring to disrupt the 1968 Democratic convention, Davis and other defendants were sentenced for contempt.

"We must all be in contempt of people who wage this unjust war . . . of racists . . . (of) people who jail our dissenters and leaders," Dick Davis said yesterday.

A dozen persons displayed broad black and yellow banners reading "All in Contempt."

Enthusiastic despite the elements, much of the crowd clapped frequently, their gloved hands producing a muffled, thumping kind of applause. There were shouts of "Right on!"

The walk to the White House with the cartons of signatures began about 3 p.m., under the watchful eye of about two dozen policemen who inspected the contents of the cartons before permitting bearers to proceed.

A Moratorium spokesman said a request to meet with a White House representative to deliver the signatures had been turned down. The President was in Florida yesterday.

Demonstrators quietly stacked the red, white and blue cartons, adorned with the peace symbol, near the west gate. When the demonstrators left, secret service men took the cartons into the Executive Office Building.

While most of the demonstrators had walked slowly toward the west gate, some of those bearing "All in Contempt" banners primarily supporters of the Chicago defendants had dashed ahead, shouting, "Smash the state."

At that point 20 police motorcycle officers rolled slowly down Pennsylvania Avenue, single file.

But there was no incident.

The small group, many of them winded, walked away after reaching the gate.



By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

Thirty-seven boxes containing signatures were left at the White House yesterday.